

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 01447 151519Z

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: ALVARO CUNHAL PRESS STATEMENT

SUMMARY: IN A CONFIDENT PRESS INTERVIEW, PCP SECRETARY
GENERAL ALVARO CUNHAL SPOKE ABOUT THE MARCH 11 COUP AND ITS
POLITICAL AFTERMATH. HE PREDICTED RESTRICTIONS ON POLITICAL
PARTIES OF THE EXTREME RIGHT AND LEFT AND CLOSER TIES WITH
THE AFM. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING ARE SUMMARIZED EXCERPTS FROM PRESS INTERVIEW

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PAGE 02 LISBON 01447 151519Z

BY ALVARO CUNHAL, GENERAL SECRETARY OF PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST

PARTY (PCP). INTERVIEW CARRIED AS EXCLUSIVE BY LISBON'S
DIARIO DE NOTICIAS MARCH 15.

--QUESTION: HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THE EVENTS OF MARCH 11?

--ANSWER: IT WAS A COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY COUP PRECEDED
BY AN ORCHESTRATED ANTI-COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN, WITH INTRIGUE
AGAINST THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM), ARTIFICIAL
SHARPENING OF SOCIAL TENSIONS, AND ECONOMIC SABOTAGE. THERE
WERE SOME WHO PREFERRED AN ALLIANCE WITH REACTION AGAINST THE
PCP RATHER THAN AN ALLIANCE WITH THE PCP AGAINST REACTION.
(COMMENT: ERGO, THOSE OPPOSING THE COMMUNIST PARTY FAVOR
REACTION. END COMMENT.)

--QUESTION: HOW DO YOU EVALUATE THE PARTIES TO THE RIGHT AND
TO THE LEFT OF THE PCP?

--ANSWER: THE PCP FAVORS THE FREE ACTION OF POLITICAL
PARTIES ON THE CONDITION THAT THEY RESPECT LIBERTY AND DO NOT
PROPOSE TO DESTROY IT. IT FOLLOWS THAT MEASURES SHOULD BE
TAKEN AGAINST PARTIES WHICH USE LEGALITY TO ORGANIZE
CONSPIRACIES AND ACTIONS AGAINST DEMOCRATIC ORDER. THE
LIBERAL PARTY AND THE PROGRESS AND LABOR PARTY WERE JUSTIFIABLY
PROHIBITED AS A RESULT OF THEIR COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY AND
CLANDESTINE PREPARATION OF THE 28TH OF SEPTEMBER. NOW ONE
SHOULD INVESTIGATE WHETHER THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY
(PDC) AND OTHERS WERE INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATION OF THE
11TH OF MARCH. THERE ARE PARTIES THAT SAY THEY ARE DEMOCRATIC
AND LIBERAL, SUCH AS THE CDS AND THE PPD (RPT PPD) BUT WHICH
CARRY OUT CLEARLY REACTIONARY PROPAGANDA AND ACTIONS. IF
THEY DON'T PARTICIPATE IN THE TECHNICAL PREPARATION OF COUPS,
THEY CERTAINLY PREPARE THE GROUND. THE SAME CAN BE SAID OF
PSEUDO-REVOLUTIONARY GROUPS THAT PLAY THE GAME OF REACTION
WITH THEIR PROVOCATIONS AND DISTURBANCES.

--QUESTION: WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CREATION OF THE
REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL?

--ANSWER: IT IS A CORRECT AND AN OPPORTUNE MEASURE.
IT IS TIME TO UNDO CERTAIN ERRORS ABOUT THE MILITARY POSSIBLY
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PAGE 03 LISBON 01447 151519Z

RETURNING TO THE BARRACKS AFTER THE ELECTIONS. THE AFM IS
AND WILL BE NECESSARY TO THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS BEFORE,
DURING, AND AFTER THE ELECTIONS. NATIONALIZATION OF THE
BANKS IS A MEASURE OF HISTORICAL SCOPE IN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL
AND POLITICAL LIFE OF COUNTRY.

--QUESTION: WHAT WILL BE THE ROLE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL?

--ANSWER: ABOUT THE SAME AS BEFORE, WITH PERHAPS GREATER ROOM FOR INITIATIVE AND DECISION-MAKING.

--QUESTION: WILL THE GOVERNMENT NOW DEVOTE MORE TIME TO SEEING THAT LAWS ARE ENFORCED RATHER THAN IN LEGISLATIVE INVOLVEMENT?

--ANSWER: THIS WILL BE DETERMINED WHEN THE COMPOSITION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS RESOLVED. WE FAVOR THE ENTRY INTO THE GOVERNMENT--AT THE LEAST--OF THE MDP/CDE, WHICH SHOWED ONCE AGAIN ON MARCH 11 THAT IT IS ONE OF THE MOST ACTIVE FORCES SUPPORTING THE AFM.

--QUESTION: IN LIGHT OF RECENT EVENTS, HOW DO YOU SEE PARTIES, POLITICAL FORCES AND AFM WORKING TOGETHER TO CARRY OUT AFM PROGRAM?

--ANSWER: UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS WHAT IS NEEDED IS A COALITION GOVERNMENT WHOSE SCOPE STILL REMAINS TO BE DEFINED. THE PARTICIPATING POLITICAL FORCES, THE PARTIES AND THE AFM, HAVE TO ESTABLISH AN ACCORD FOR COMMON ACTION.

--QUESTION: HOW SHOULD THE PEOPLE REACT TO INCREASE IN STRIKES AND SOCIAL TENSIONS?

--ANSWER: WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT STRIKES AND ARTIFICIAL AGGRAVATIONS OF SOCIAL TENSION HAVE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL EFFECTS FAVORABLE TO REACTION.

--QUESTION: THE PCP AND THE SOCIALIST PARTY MET ON THE 13TH. WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR TIES?

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PAGE 04 LISBON 01447 151519Z

--ANSWER: THE MEETING WAS AGREED UPON BEFORE THE EVENTS OF MARCH 11. THERE ARE POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION. THESE PROBLEMS WILL BE CONSIDERED IN FUTURE MEETINGS.

--QUESTION: WOULD YOU CONSIDER A HIGH OR A LOW VOTE IN THE CONSTITUENT ELECTIONS AS A "VICTORY" OR A "DEFEAT?"

--ANSWER: AFTER HALF A CENTURY THE ELECTIONS WILL BE VALUABLE INDICATION OF POLITICAL TENDENCIES OF PEOPLE. IT WOULD BE MISTAKE TO CONSIDER THAT A MAJORITY IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO DESIGNATE, CONTROL, REMODEL, OR REPLACE THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT.

2. COMMENT: ELATED BY THE OUTCOME OF MARCH 11 EVENTS, CUNHAL NONETHELESS CONTINUES TO CULTIVATE HIS "MODERATE"

IMAGE AND REITERATE HIS PARTY'S TOTAL SUPPORT OF THE AFM.

3. HIS LITTLE LECTURE ABOUT NEED TO "UNDO CERTAIN ERRORS"
RE MILITARY RETURNING TO BARRACKS SUGGESTS THAT EVEN THE PCP
PARTY FAITHFUL ARE QUESTIONING MILITARY DOMINATION OF COUNTRY'S
POLITICAL LIFE.

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